Preparing for your Gastric Emptying Scan

Check in Date and Time:
_________________________________.

Where will I have the test done?

Adults:
University Hospital
600 Highland Ave
Madison, WI 53792

Go through the lobby to the 2nd floor atrium elevators. Go up to 3rd floor. Follow the signs to Radiology.

Pediatrics:
American Family Children's Hospital
1675 Highland Ave, Madison, 53792

Check-in at the Diagnostic and Therapy Center. You will be taken to University Hospital for your scan.

If you need to reschedule the test, call the Radiology Department at 608-263-9729.

What is it?
The gastric emptying scan is a test to look at how quickly food leaves your stomach.

How should I get ready for the test?

- Do not eat or drink any food or liquids for 6 hours before your check in time.
- If you smoke, do not smoke the morning of the test.
- Two days before the test your doctor may have you stop taking these medicines.
  - Some may affect how quickly food moves through your stomach, such as, Reglan (metoclopramide), Motilium (domperidone), Bentyl (dicyclomine), Donnatal, Zelnorm (tegaserod), erythromycin
  - Pain medicines, such as codeine, Percocet (oxycodone), Tylenol #3, OxyContin, Percodan, fentanyl patch, methadone, Vicodin (hydrocodone), Ultram (tramadol) can also affect your stomach.
  - Do not take any laxatives the day before or the day of the test.
  - Your doctor may not want you to stop certain medicines. They may want to see how they are working.
  - A pharmacist will review your medicines. If needed they will contact your doctor.
- If you have diabetes, talk to your primary doctor about how to manage your medicine.
- Talk to your doctor to see if you can take other medicines with a sip of water the day of the test. Take these at least 2 hours before you arrive at the hospital for the test.
- If you are pregnant, think you might be pregnant or breast feeding, please tell us. This test should not be done if you are pregnant or breast-feeding except under special conditions.
What can I expect during the test?
The test will take about 4-5 hours. For infants about 2 1/2 hours.

You will be given a small meal of cooked egg whites, bread and water. The food you eat has a small amount of a radioactive substance in it. The radioactive substance has no taste and the food tastes normal. If you have a confirmed allergy to eggs or wheat (gluten), tell us and a different meal will be provided for you.

After eating the meal, pictures will be taken of your stomach over the next 4 hours. You may be standing. If you cannot stand for 5 minutes, please let us know. You will be able to move around between the picture-taking. You may want to bring a book or something else to help pass the time. Do not eat or drink anything other than what we give you during the test.

Infants: will have formula instead of the described meal. Pictures will be taken over a 2-hour period.

After the test is done:
You can return home and begin your regular diet and medicines.

For any questions, please call Radiology at 608-263-9729.

Toll free 1-800-323-8942; ask for Radiology.

References:


